

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shadeck (U.S. 5,957,174) in view of Liao et al. (U.S. 6,481,474). Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Drawings

Applicant has amended Figures 1-8, as illustrated on the attached formal drawings, accompanied by a Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Figures 1-8 were amended to be consistent with the specification originally filed with this application. No "new matter" has been added to the original disclosure by the amendments to these figures. It is believed that the foregoing proposed amendments obviate the outstanding objections to the drawings. Entry of the corrected drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and has amended claims 2 and 3 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to include the language of claim 1, thereby redrafting the claims in independent form. In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claims 2 and 3, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

Application No. 10/642,830


Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Enclosed are new formal drawing of Figures 1-8, accompanied by a Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Figures 1-8 have been amended to be consistent with the specification as originally filed with this application.